

Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-12

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R 301045Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5448

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USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0632

CINCEUR FOR ECJ4/7-SA

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS YO

SUBJ: TERMINATION OF TUITION-FREE MILITARY TRAINING (U)

REF: USCINCEUR 0858 DTG 161935Z JAN 76

1. TERMINATION OF TUITION-FREE MILITARY TRAINING FOR YUGOSLAVIA IN JUL 76 WILL HAVE UNDESIRABLE IMPACT HERE. ANY ATTEMPT ON OUR PART TO RATIONALLY EXPLAIN THIS CHANGE OF POLICY WOULD BE RECEIVED WITH SKEPTICISM BY YUGOSLAVS WHO WOULD ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY JUDGE IT AS A POLITACALLY MOTIVATED STEP.

2. THE ARMY'S C&GSC PROGRAM, IN EFFECT SINCE 1952, REPRESENTS THE ONLY LONG-TERM, CONSISTENT MILITARY-TO-MILITARY LINK SHARED BY US WITH GOY. WHILE UNABLE TO PREDICT WHETHER YUGOSLAVS WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO DROP THEIR PARTICIPATION THIS COMING YEAR, EITHER FROM PIQUE OR FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, THE ISSUE IS NONETHELESS SENSITIVE. ADDITIONALLY, THE TIMING COULDN'T BE WORSE. OUR MILITARY -TO-MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH YUGOSLAVIA HAS BEEN CAREFULLY NURTURED, PARTICULARLY IN THE PAST YEAR, TO THE POINT WHERE IT JUST NOW APPEARS TO BE APPROACHING FRUITION IN SEVERAL AREAS, INCLUDING FMS. WE THERE FORE VIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
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THIS POLICY AS A SETBACK TO THE RECENT

FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS.

3. WE REQUEST SOME FORM OF RELIEF FROM THIS REQUIREMENT
TO ALLOW CONTINUING YUGOSLAV PARTICIPATION ON A NON-PAYING
BASIS IN THIS PROGRAM.
SWEITZER

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NNN

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